

# TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

As the sponsor of poetry readings, the founder of a literary magazine, and a publisher, George Van Deventer is longstanding champion of poetry in Maine. This week's column shows he is also a poet.

## Early Morning Trumpet—for Gabe

*by George V. Van Deventer*

On occasion, leaving the barn  
after milking, I'd hear  
my neighbor's son down the valley,  
across the stream, play  
his trumpet as if he were thinking out loud, moving  
in the privacy of his thoughts.  
I'd stop as if it were a call to prayer  
and follow his flight,  
as I would follow a nuthatch  
piping from tree to tree –  
a personal song  
unfolding around me.

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